Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02335 300829Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01
OMB-01 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /080 W
----------103681 300846Z /20
O P 300711Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8767
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2335

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW MEETING WITH AFRICAN
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

1. GRAHAM AND I WERE CALLED UPON BY 13 OF THE 15 AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT ON TUESDAY, JUNE 27 (THERE IS ONE VACANCY). THE GROUP WAS ARTICULATE AND IMPASSIONED IN THEIR PLEA TO THE UK AND U.S. TO INTERVENE WITH FORCE IF NECESSARY TO END THE WAR IN RHODESIA. SOMEWHAT TO MY SURPRISE, THEY WERE UNANIMOUS IN A NUMBER OF JUDGMENTS ON THE SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:
A. THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT OF MARCH 3 IS AN UNSATISFACTORY AND INADEQUATE AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD RESULT IN ONLY A FACADE RATHER THAN A REAL TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE AFRICANS. THE SAME ARMY, POLICE, JUDICIARY, AND ADMINISTRATION WOULD REMAIN UNAFFECTED. BLACKS WOULD NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02335 300829Z

BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION.
B. THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION PARTY LIST SYSTEM BY WHICH THE ELECTION WAS TO BE RUN IN DECEMBER WAS FOREIGN TO RHODESIA AND WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO WERE USED TO SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT POLLS.
C. IF AN ELECTION IS HELD IN DECEMBER, THE PEOPLE OF THE TRIBAL TRUST LANDS (TTLS) WOULD NOT TAKE PART; ONLY THOSE IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

URBAN AREAS WILL VOTE AND THE RESULT WILL NOT BE A TEST OF MAJORITY VIEW IN THE COUNTRY.
D. IF INDEPENDENCE IS GRANTED IN DECEMBER TO A MAJORITY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THE WAR WILL NOT END. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WILL ONLY BECOME WORSE.

2. COMMENT: THE GROUP REPRESENTED DIFFERENT POLITICAL FACTIONS BUT THEY WERE REMARKABLE IN THE STRENGTH OF THEIR OPINION AND IN THEIR UNANIMITY. THEY SAID THAT THEY REPRESENTED THE PEOPLE OF THE TTLS BY WHOM THEY HAD BEEN SELECTED. THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WERE SUFFERING MOST FROM THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE EXPRESSING LONG HELD VIEWS OR SIMPLY JUMPING ON A BANDWAGON, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IS A VERY PESSIMISTIC ONE FOR THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.
LOW

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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20 Mar 2014
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